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ABSTRACT

This paper presents statistical data, based on the 1970 census, illustrating the proportionate representation of Asian/Pacific people in the areas of population, education, and employment in Los Angeles County. Tables provide comparative data on population and education, male population and selected occupational categories, female population and selected occupational categories, and employment and unemployment. The County's population is also estimated for 1976 and 1977. (EB)

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ASIAN/PACIFIC PEOPLE IN THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY LABOR FORCE

prepared by Nashwa Eisner
Research and Program Development Division
August, 1977

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For purposes of this report, it is estimated that Asian/Pacific people comprised about 90.7% of the 1970 Census "Other Non-White" population in Los Angeles County. *(That is, Other Non-White minus the American Indian population should roughly equal the Asian/Pacific population, although the "All Other" category (0.7% of the total population) may include some non-Asian/Pacific.)*

Although most data presented here are based on the 1970 Census, estimates for 1976 and 1977 populations are given in Table I.

SIGNIFICANT DATA FROM THE 1970 CENSUS

Asian/Pacific people:

1. ...comprised about 3.4% of the total population of Los Angeles County in 1970.[1]
2. ...comprised 3.3% of persons age 25 and over, compared with a substantial 5.1% of the same age group with 4 or more years of college.[1]
3. ...had a higher median years of school than any other group, including total population (12.7 to 14.3 median years for Asian/Pacific, compared to 12.5 years for Anglo/White).[1]
4. ...were 4.2% of all persons age 18-34, but 6.2% of that age group who were enrolled in college.[1]

Employment Characteristics of Asian/Pacific People:

5. Asian/Pacific males 16 and over comprised 3.6% of all males 16 and over, and also 3.6% of employed males in the civilian labor force. They were a disproportionately high percentage (4.7%) of those employed in the professional, technical, and kindred occupations, but were proportionately underrepresented in the managerial and administrative occupations (3.0%).[2]

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1 See Table II
2 See Table III

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Employment Characteristics *(Continued)*

6. Asian/Pacific females 16 and over comprised 3.2% of all females 16 and over, compared with 3.9% of employed females in the civilian labor force--i.e., a high participation rate.

   They also comprised a disproportionately high percentage (4.6%) of women employed in professional, technical and kindred occupations; but a disproportionately low 2.7% of women employed in managerial and administrative occupations.[3]

7. Asian/Pacific males and females combined were 3.4% of the total population 16 and over, but 3.7% of all employed persons in the civilian labor force.

   They comprised 4.7% of those employed in professional, technical, and kindred occupations; but only 2.8% of those employed in the managerial and administrative occupations.[4]

8. In managerial and administrative occupations, Asian/Pacific people were consistently underrepresented (see points 5, 6, and 7), as are all other major minority groups. Anglo Whites, on the other hand, are highly overrepresented (86.4% of all managers and administrators, compared to 71.5% of the civilian labor force).[4]

9. Unemployed Asian/Pacific people comprised 3.4% of the "work age" population (16 and over), but 2.3% of the total unemployed. *(No data are available for unemployed Asian/Pacific peoples with experience in professional and managerial occupations.)*[5]

CONCLUSIONS

Since 1970, it is estimated that the Asian/Pacific populations of the County have grown significantly in number and proportion to the total population.[6]

If the Asian/Pacific population increase since 1970 reflects a similarly high proportion of college-educated individuals and similarly high labor force participation rates for both males and females in the professional, technical, and kindred occupations--as the immigration quotas tend to assure--then it is reasonable and even conservative to expect the proportion of Asian/Pacific workers in the professional, technical, and kindred occupations to be as high as 11.1% in 1977.[7]

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3 *See Table IV.* 4 *See Table V.* 5 *See Table VI.* 6 *See Table I.*

7 *Community estimates indicated an Asian/Pacific population of about 500,000 in 1976 (7.14% of the total County population). More recent estimates by the Census Task Force of Concerned Asian Americans and Pacific Peoples indicate that Asian/Pacific people were 8% of the population in 1976.*

In this context, it is conservative to use 8% as the mid-1977 estimate of the County's Asian/Pacific population

$$\frac{3.4\% \text{ of the population in 1970}}{4.7\% \text{ of employed professionals}} = \frac{8.0\% \text{ of the population in 1977}}{11.1\% \text{ of employed professionals}}$$

TABLE 1

RECENT COMMUNITY ESTIMATES

Categories:	Community[1] Estimates (1975/76)	Percentage	Asian[2] Community Svc. Ctr. Estimates (1976)	Percentage	Asian[2] Community Svc. Ctr. Estimates (1977)	Percentage
Total County Population	7,296,215	100.0%	7,018,000[3]	100%	7,040,000[3]	100%
Japanese	150,000	2.06	150,000	2.14	160,000	2.27
Chinese	80,000	1.10	90,000	1.28	90,000	1.28
Pilipino	85,000	1.16	80,000	1.14	90,000	1.28
Korean	80,000	1.10	80,000	1.14	85,000	1.21
Vietnamese	11,000	0.15	(not obtained)	-	30,000	0.43
Thai	15,000	0.21	15,000	0.21	(not obtained)	-
Cambodian	4,000	0.05	(not obtained)	-	5,000	0.07
Samoan	20,000	0.27	40,000	0.57	41,000	0.58
Guamanian	5,000	0.07	(not obtained)	-	10,000	0.14
Sri Lankan	(not obtained)	-	2,000	0.03	2,000	0.03
Southeast Asian	(not obtained)	-	35,000	0.50	(not obtained)	-
Laotian	(not obtained)	-	(not obtained)	-	6,000	0.09
SUM OF ABOVE	450,000	6.17%	492,000	7.01%	519,000	7.38%

[1] HRC Community Estimates for Racial/Ethnic Populations of Los Angeles County--1975 (Individual Sources available upon request)

[2] Asian Community Service Center Estimates for 1976 and 1977

[3] L.A. County Department of Regional Planning Estimates - July 1976 (Provisional) and January 1977 (Tentative)

TABLE II

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

1970 POPULATION AND SELECTED EDUCATION DATA

RACIAL/ETHNIC CATEGORY	TOTAL POPULATION		PERSONS 25 AND OVER					PERSONS AGE 18-34			
			TOTAL		4 or More Years of College		Median Years of School	TOTAL		Enrolled in College	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%		Number	%	Number	%
TOTAL POPULATION	7,032,075	100.0	3,960,774	100.0	504,563	100.0	12.4	1,779,043	100.0	308,285	100.0
ANGLO WHITE	4,777,904	67.9	2,906,789	73.4	429,160	85.1	12.5	1,161,042	65.3	227,834	73.9
TOTAL MINORITY	2,254,171	32.1	1,053,955	26.6	75,403	14.9	11.6	618,001	34.7	80,451	26.1
OTHER NON-WHITE*	262,732	3.7	140,764	3.6	26,335	5.2	12.6	81,606	4.6	19,950	6.5
American Indian	24,509	0.4	11,499	0.3	483	0.1	11.8	7,566	0.4	719	0.2
BALANCE=ESTIMATED ASIAN/PACIFIC**	238,223	3.4	129,265	3.3	25,852	5.1	N/A	74,040	4.2	19,231	6.2
Japanese	104,078	1.5	62,007	1.6	9,983	2.0	12.7	44,726	2.5	8,661	2.8
Chinese	40,798	0.6	21,584	0.5	6,223	1.2	12.8	13,561	0.8	5,598	1.8
Pilipino	33,459	0.5	18,050	0.5	3,789	0.8	12.9	10,732	0.6	914	0.3
Korean	8,650	0.1	5,109	0.1	N/A	—	14.3	N/A	—	N/A	—
Hawaiian	4,634	0.1	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	N/A	—	N/A	—
All Other	46,604	0.7	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	N/A	—	N/A	—

*other than Black

**other Non-White less American Indian

TABLE III

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
1970 MALE POPULATION, 16 AND OVER
BY SELECTED OCCUPATIONAL CATEGORIES

RACIAL/ETHNIC CATEGORY	TOTAL POPULATION		CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE							
			TOTAL CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYED LABOR FORCE					
					TOTAL EMPLOYED		PROFESSIONAL, TECHNICAL, MANAGERIAL & KINDRED			
							TOTAL		*PROF., TECH., & KINDRED*		*MGRS., ADMIN., INCLUDING FARM*	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
TOTAL POPULATION	2,377,391	*100.0*	1,838,326	*100.0*	1,727,254	*100.0*	521,005	*100.0*	310,401	*100.0*	210,604	*100.0*
ANGLO WHITE	1,708,833	*71.9*	1,321,360	*71.9*	1,250,697	*72.4*	441,519	*84.7*	258,904	*83.4*	182,615	*86.7*
TOTAL MINORITY	668,558	*28.1*	516,966	*28.1*	476,557	*27.6*	79,486	*15.3*	51,497	*16.6*	27,989	*13.3*
OTHER NON-WHITE *	91,376	*3.8*	70,223	*3.8*	67,212	*3.9*	21,317	*4.1*	14,987	*4.8*	6,330	*3.0*
American Indian	7,097	*0.3*	5,154	*0.3*	4,706	*0.3*	737	*0.1*	476	*0.2*	265	*0.1*
BALANCE = ESTIMATED ** ASIAN/PACIFIC	84,279	*3.6*	65,069	*3.5*	62,506	*3.6*	20,580	*4.0*	14,511	*4.7*	6,069	*3.0*
Japanese	36,616	*1.5*	29,809	*1.6*	29,135	*1.7*	10,376	*2.0*	6,712	*2.2*	3,664	*1.7*
Chinese	15,384	*0.7*	11,841	*0.6*	11,384	*0.7*	4,897	*0.9*	3,639	*1.2*	1,258	*0.6*
Pilipino	12,010	*0.5*	8,568	*0.5*	8,146	*0.5*	2,125	*0.4*	1,831	*0.6*	294	*0.1*
Korean	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—
Hawaiian	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—
All Other	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—

* *Other than Black.*

** *Other Non-White less American Indian.*

TABLE IV

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
1970 FEMALE POPULATION, 16 AND OVER
BY SELECTED OCCUPATIONAL CATEGORIES

RACIAL/ETHNIC CATEGORY	TOTAL POPULATION		CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE							
			TOTAL CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYED LABOR FORCE					
					TOTAL EMPLOYED		PROFESSIONAL, TECHNICAL, MANAGERIAL & KINDRED			
							TOTAL		*PROF., TECH., & KINDRED*	*MGRS., ADMIN., INCLUDING FARM*
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number %	Number %
TOTAL POPULATION	2,638,884	*100.0*	1,175,790	*100.0*	1,099,311	*100.0*	223,235	*100.0*	171,562 *100.0*	51,673 *100.0*
ANGLO WHITE	1,894,861	*71.8*	833,807	*70.9*	784,744	*71.4*	179,242	*80.3*	135,392 *78.9*	43,850 *84.9*
TOTAL MINORITY	744,023	*28.2*	341,983	*29.1*	314,567	*28.6*	43,993	*19.7*	36,170 *21.1*	7,823 *15.1*
OTHER NON-WHITE*	93,251	*3.5*	48,682	*4.1*	46,719	*4.3*	9,674	*4.3*	8,204 *4.8*	1,470 *2.8*
American Indian	8,484	*0.3*	3,711	*0.3*	3,405	*0.3*	374	*0.2*	296 *0.2*	78 *0.2*
BALANCE = ESTIMATED ** ASIAN/PACIFIC	84,767	*3.2*	44,971	*3.8*	43,314	*3.9*	9,300	*4.2*	7,908 *4.6*	1,392 *2.7*
Japanese	40,666	*1.5*	21,691	*1.8*	21,172	*1.9*	3,996	*1.8*	3,156 *1.8*	840 *1.6*
Chinese	13,941	*0.5*	7,159	*0.6*	6,931	*0.6*	1,648	*0.7*	1,406 *0.8*	242 *0.5*
Pilipino	10,540	*0.4*	6,644	*0.6*	6,410	*0.6*	2,075	*0.9*	1,971 *1.1*	104 *0.2*
Korean	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A —	N/A —
Hawaiian	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A —	N/A —
All Other	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A —	N/A —

* *Other than Black*

** *Other Non-White less American Indian*

TABLE V

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
1970 EMPLOYED PERSONS, 16 AND OVER
BY SELECTED OCCUPATIONAL CATEGORIES

RACIAL/ETHNIC CATEGORY	TOTAL POPULATION		CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE							
			TOTAL CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYED LABOR FORCE					
					TOTAL EMPLOYED		PROFESSIONAL, TECHNICAL, MANAGERIAL & KINDRED			
							TOTAL		*PROF., TECH., & KINDRED*		*MGRS., ADMIN., INCLUDING FARM*	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
TOTAL POPULATION	5,016,275	*100.0*	3,014,116	*100.0*	2,826,565	*100.0*	744,240	*100.0*	481,963	*100.0*	262,277	*100.0*
ANGLO WHITE	3,603,694	*71.8*	2,155,167	*71.5*	2,035,441	*72.0*	620,761	*83.4*	394,296	*81.8*	226,465	*86.4*
TOTAL MINORITY	1,412,581	*28.2*	858,949	*28.5*	791,124	*28.0*	123,479	*16.6*	87,667	*18.2*	35,812	*13.7*
OTHER NON-WHITE *	184,627	*3.7*	118,905	*3.9*	113,931	*4.0*	30,991	*4.2*	23,191	*4.8*	7,800	*3.0*
American Indian	15,581	*0.3*	8,865	*0.3*	8,111	*0.3*	1,111	*0.2*	772	*0.2*	343	*0.1*
BALANCE = ESTIMATED ** ASIAN/PACIFIC	169,046	*3.4*	110,040	*3.7*	105,820	*3.7*	29,880	*4.0*	22,419	*4.7*	7,461	*2.8*
Japanese	77,282	*1.5*	51,500	*1.7*	50,307	*1.8*	14,372	*1.9*	9,868	*2.1*	4,504	*1.7*
Chinese	29,325	*0.6*	19,000	*0.6*	18,315	*0.7*	6,545	*0.9*	5,045	*1.1*	1,500	*0.6*
Pilipino	22,550	*0.5*	15,212	*0.5*	14,556	*0.5*	4,200	*0.6*	3,802	*0.8*	398	*0.2*
Korean	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—
Hawaiian	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—
All Other	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—	N/A	—

* *Other than Black*

** *Other Non-White less American Indian*

TABLE VI

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
1970 UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, 16 AND OVER

	RACIAL/ETHNIC CATEGORY	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED		EXPERIENCED UNEMPLOYED			
				TOTAL		PROF, TECH, MGRL & KINDRED	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
ALL UNEMPLOYED	TOTAL POPULATION	187,551	100.0	176,978	100.0	29,727	100.0
	ANGLO WHITE	121,890	65.0	116,447	65.8	24,560	82.6
	TOTAL MINORITY	65,661	35.0	60,531	34.2	5,167	17.4
	OTHER NON-WHITE*	4,974	2.7	4,523	2.6	945	3.2
	American Indian	754	0.4	N/A	—	N/A	—
	BALANCE = ESTIMATED** ASIAN/PACIFIC	4,220	2.3	N/A	—	N/A	—
MALES	TOTAL POPULATION	111,072	100.0	106,491	100.0	20,997	100.0
	ANGLO WHITE	72,916	65.7	70,660	66.4	17,421	83.0
	TOTAL MINORITY	38,156	34.4	35,831	33.7	3,576	17.0
	OTHER NON-WHITE*	3,011	2.7	2,819	2.7	662	3.2
	American Indian	448	0.4	N/A	—	N/A	—
	BALANCE = ESTIMATED** ASIAN/PACIFIC	2,563	2.3	N/A	—	N/A	—
FEMALES	TOTAL POPULATION	76,479	100.0	70,487	100.0	8,730	100.0
	ANGLO WHITE	48,974	64.0	45,787	65.0	7,139	81.8
	TOTAL MINORITY	27,505	36.0	24,700	35.0	1,591	18.2
	OTHER NON-WHITE*	1,963	2.6	1,704	2.4	283	3.2
	American Indian	306	0.4	N/A	—	N/A	—
	BALANCE = ESTIMATED** ASIAN/PACIFIC	1,657	2.2	N/A	—	N/A	—

* *Other than Black. Nearly 91% of Other Non-White category is estimated to be Asian/Pacific.*

** *Other Non-White less American Indian.*

TABLE VII

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

1970 TOTAL UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, 16 AND OVER

JAPANESE, CHINESE, AND PILIPINO

RACIAL/ETHNIC CATEGORY	TOTAL		MALES		FEMALES	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
JAPANESE	1,193	0.6	674	0.6	519	0.7
CHINESE	737	0.4	509	0.5	228	0.3
PILIPINO	656	0.4	422	0.4	234	0.3

NOTE: 1970 data not available for unemployed Korean, Hawaiian, and All Other categories.